

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**RE: DOCKET NO. 272** - The Connecticut Light and Power Company and The United Illuminating Company application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction of a new 345-kV electric transmission line and associated facilities between the Scovill Rock Switching Station in Middletown and the Norwalk Substation in Norwalk, Connecticut.

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## Council Chairman Extends an Invitation

The following is an editorial column by Pamela B. Katz, PE, Chairman of the Connecticut Siting Council:

The Connecticut Siting Council has an application of enormous importance pending before us. It may well be the most important project ever to be decided by the Siting Council. We are asking those who will be affected by the decision we reach in this matter to help us in an important step along the way.

Early this year the General Assembly passed a new state law that requires the Siting Council to establish a "buffer zone" where electric transmission lines run alongside certain sensitive areas including schools and residential areas (P.A. 04-246). But the legislature left the details as to how to do this to us, the Siting Council.

How large or small should the buffer zones be? What criteria standards should be used in establishing them?

Should the buffer zones, if necessary, encroach upon resident's properties? How should the buffer zones be marked, if at all?

These are just some of the questions left to the Siting Council as a result of this new law. And as chairman of the Council, I'm asking for your help.

The Siting Council will hold a technical session in New Britain on Wednesday, September 8, beginning at 1:00 PM to discuss these questions. We are asking for those who have comments, suggestions, or suggested solutions as to how this new law should be interpreted and applied to show up and tell us what they think.

The lawyers involved in this proceeding have already argued the finer points of the law and their briefings are now a part of the official record. But the Siting Council wants to hear firsthand from those who stand to be affected by this issue. Frankly, we consider it



essential to turn the focus of this discussion towards the more practical aspects of the law – especially as it relates to the transmission line proposal that is before us.


If you are a resident of a community that stands to be affected by this project, please consider this my personal invitation to attend this technical session to speak to the Council about this issue. If you are a public official or a person holding elective office in such a community, I hope you will make a special effort to attend.

The Siting Council appreciates the importance of reaching a balanced and responsible decision in all its actions; certainly, the controversial 69-mile transmission line project stretching from Middletown to Norwalk is no exception. To that end, we consider it essential to gather as much input and advice as possible from those who stand to be affected by our decisions in this matter.

I sincerely hope that those who have something to say about this will seize this opportunity to do so.

*Pamela B. Katz, PE, of Simsbury, is chairman of the Connecticut Siting Council. Details about the location for the technical session event described above and a more complete explanation as to the schedule may be found at [ct.gov/csc](http://ct.gov/csc)*

Authenticity of this release is affirmed by S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director.

  
SEPT 3, 2004